

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO, NAOS

SUBJ: WMO NAOS CONFERENCE

REF: GENEVA 1287

1. WMO NAOS CONFERENCE ADJOURNED MARCH 1 WITHOUT ACHIEVING AN AGREEMENT. SECRETARIAT DRAFT AGREEMENT MENTIONED PARAGRAPH 6 OF REFERENCE HAD NO SUPPORT AND WAS QUICKLY WITHDRAWN, THUS LEAVING NO OTHER BASIS FOR DISCUSSION.

2. CONFERENCE ADOPTED INTERIM REPORT SETTING OUT AREAS OF CONSENSUS AND MAJOR POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT. IT PROPOSED TO RE-CONVENE 22 JULY 1974 AT WMO HEADQUARTERS, SUBJECT TO SUITABLE ARRANGEMENTS BEING MADE BY SYG WMO WITH PARTICIPATING STATES TO FUND A RESUMED SESSION.

3. NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE RESUMED SESSION SURVIVED THE HIGHLY DIVIDED DELEGATIONS, EVEN THOUGH SEVERAL ISSUES WERE OPPOSED BY ONLY ONE OR TWO DELEGATIONS. THUS THE INTERIM REPORT IS ESSENTIALLY LIMITED TO A NARRATIVE

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OF THE TWO-WEEK DEBATE, WITH A LIST OF DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED

BY THE CONFERENCE THUS FAR. ONE OF THESE INCLUDES A DRAFT TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT INTENSIVELY DISCUSSED BUT NOT ACCEPTED.

R. IN SPITE OF THE FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THIS SESSION, THERE CONTINUES TO BE SIGNIFICANT IF NOT UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR AN NAOS OPERATED ESSENTIALLY BY EUROPEAN METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES. THERE WAS INDICATION THAT ALL PRESENT PARTICIPANTS WOULD RE-JOIN THE CONFERENCE IN JULY. THE MAJOR ISSUES CONTINUED TO BE: FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF OPERATING COSTS; SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS; AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE CHOICE OF STATION NETWORK TO BE OPERATED.

5. ON THE STATION NETWORK QUESTION, THERE WAS CONSENSUS THAT IT SHOULD CONTAIN AT LEAST FOUR STATIONS. THE MAIN POINT OF UNCERTAINTY HAS TO DO WITH THE ROLE TO BE PLAYED BY THE USSR. ON THIS SUBJECT, IN THE FINAL PLENARY THE USSR DELEGATE PROPOSED THAT THE RELEVANT PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT TEXT BE AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS (EDITORIAL IMPROVEMENTS NOT COMPLETED): QTE ONE PROSPECTIVE OPERATING PARTY STATED THAT FOR TECHNICAL REASONS IT COULD NOT OPERATE OCEAN STATION C WITH TWO SHIPS, SINCE FOR THIS PURPOSE IT WOULD NEED 2.5 OR THREE SHIPS. THE PROSPECTIVE OPERATING PARTY ALSO BELIEVES THAT A 4-STATION NETWORK SHOULD INCLUDE STATION E (35N, 48W). IT WAS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT, SHOULD THIS STATION BE INCLUDED, THEN THE PROSPECTIVE OPERATING PARTY WOULD LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF INCLUDING IN THE COST OF THE ENTIRE SYSTEM THE OPERATIONAL COST OF ONLY TWO VESSELS. UNQTE. THIS STATEMENT BY THE USSR WAS REGARDED BY SOME OF THE DELEGATIONS AS A RETREAT FROM EARLY COMMENTS THAT THEY WOULD BE PREPARED TO ASSIST THE OPERATION OF OTHER STATIONS EVEN THOUGH STATION E WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE NETWORK.

6. WHILE THERE WERE A VARIETY OF SMALLER DIFFICULTIES, MANY DELEGATIONS FELT THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WAS THE UNWILLINGNESS OF THE UK TO COMPROMISE ON ITS DEMAND FOR FULL REIMBURSEMENT OF OPERATING COSTS, AND THE INSISTENCE OF THE FRG IN NOT ACCEPTING THE UN SCALE OF CONTRIBUTIONS AS A BASIS FOR APPORTIONMENT OF NAOS CONTRIBUTIONS. THE INTERIM REPORT URGES PARTICIPATING STATES TO CARRY ON INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ON THESE MAJOR ISSUES SO AS TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT AT THE RESUMED SESSION. DALE
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